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NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA RECOGNIZES FISHERMEN'S GROUP AS 2006 ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

Gloucester, Mass.—The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has named the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association (CCCHFA) of Chatham, Massachusetts as a 2006 Environmental Hero. There is one of just ten such awards given nationally by NOAA this year.

The CCCHFA started in 1993 as a small group of concerned fishermen, and has since expanded into a formal organization supporting a range of advocacy efforts in fishery management, habitat protection, and cooperative research between fishermen and government scientists.

"Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association has been a leader in responsible stewardship of the fishery resources of the Northeast, often taking public positions that diverge from those of their peers in the fishing industry," said Patricia Kurkul, NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Administrator, who nominated the group for the award. "They are outspoken advocates for sustainable fisheries and precautionary management practices, and have been effective partners in solving difficult fishery management problems," she said, "We are proud to work with this group and I will be pleased to present them with this award."

Current plans are to present the award at the June meeting of the New England Fishery Management Council, the regional body that develops fishery management plans for federal waters.

Established in 1995 to commemorate the 26th anniversary of Earth Day, the Environmental Hero award is presented to individuals and organizations that volunteer their time and energy to help NOAA carry out its mission.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, 61 countries and the European Commission to develop a global network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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